

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22-29 are pending. Claims 1-11 are allowed. Claims 13-17 are amended.

Claims 13-14 are amended to set forth assaying for a difference in PKR activity (*i.e.*, binding to NS5A, dimerization, phosphorylation, reporter gene expression, *etc.*). Support is found throughout the specification, and for example, on page 17, lines 3-31 and on page 33, lines 10-24.

Claims 15-17 are amended for proper antecedent basis.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,679,342 ("Houghton")

The Examiner has rejected claims 13, 14, 18-20, 22-24 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Houghton. Applicants do not agree with the Examiner. However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 13 and 14 to set forth assaying for PKR activity. Houghton does not disclose or suggest anything about RNA-activated protein kinase (PKR) proteins or methods that set forth the step of assaying for PKR activity. Because Houghton does not teach or suggest each and every step of the present methods, Houghton does not anticipate the amended claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.



Appl. No. 09/972,756
Amdt. dated September 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 28, 2005

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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